

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

On page 1, insert above line 1, insert--Priority Claim

The present application claims priority on European Patent Application 04101175.0 filed 22 March 2004.--

On page 1, delete the title on page 1.

On page 1, above line 1, insert--Field of the Invention--

On page 1, above line 6, insert--Background of the Invention--

On page 3, delete line 22-31.

On page 6, delete line 3-33.

On page 7, delete line 1-32.

On page 8, delete line 1-12.

Please insert the following paragraphs after line 9 of page 12:

--Preferably, the sleeve has a tapered section where the outer diameter of the sleeve is gradually reduced in downstream direction of the sleeve and a first flexible sealing ring is arranged in the housing upstream of the valve seat, such that the outer surface of the tapered section of the sleeve is pressed against the inner surface of the sealing ring when the sleeve is in the first position thereof, thereby providing a fluid tight seal in the annular space between the tapered section of the sleeve and the tubular valve housing when the sleeve is in the first position thereof and such that said first sealing ring only loosely engages the tapered section of the sleeve when the sleeve is in the second position thereof.

The tapered section also serves to centralize the sleeve in the valve body as it moves to the first position from the second position.

Alternatively, the tubular valve housing has a tapered section where the inner diameter of the housing is gradually reduced in downstream direction of the housing, and

wherein a first flexible sealing ring is arranged on the outer surface of the sleeve, such that the inner surface of the tapered section of the housing is pressed against the outer surface of the sealing ring when the sleeve is in the first position thereof, and such that said first sealing ring only loosely engages the tapered section of the housing when the sleeve is in the second position thereof.

The tapered section of the sleeve or alternatively of the surrounding housing allows the sleeve to slide easily up and down through the valve housing until the sleeve has nearly reached the first position, whereas the surrounding first sealing ring provides a fluid tight seal when the sleeve has reached the first position. Since the sleeve is able to easily slide up and down through the valve housing there is no need to use an additional hydraulic piston as known from US Patent No.5,004,007.

In addition to the first sealing ring a second flexible sealing ring may be arranged in the tubular housing downstream of the first sealing ring, which second sealing ring is configured as a stop for the sleeve when the sleeve is moved in the first position thereof.

Said first and second sealing rings may be made of an elastomeric material and define an sealed annular enclosure in which the flapper valve body and seat are arranged when the sleeve is moved in the first position thereof.

The flapper valve body may be equipped with a spring which biases the valve body towards a closed position and wherein a spring is arranged between the tubular valve body and the valve protection sleeve, which biases the valve protection sleeve towards the second position.

The gas lift flow control device may be configured to be retrievably positioned in a substantially vertical position in a side pocket in the production tubing of an oil well, and the spring which biases the valve protection sleeve towards the second position is configured to collapse if the accumulation of the gravity of the valve protection sleeve and forces exerted by the lift gas to the sleeve exceed a predetermined threshold value.

Preferably, the spring is configured to collapse when the lift gas injection pressure has reached a value, which is lower than the lift gas injection pressure during normal oil production.

It is also preferred that the flapper type valve body comprises a tilted face which is dimensioned such that the point of initial contact by the sleeve when moving from the second position to the first position is at the point farthest away from a hinge pin of the

flapper type valve body. This results in less strain on the hinge pin, resulting in longer life and reduced failures due to hinge pin stress and strain.--

On page 13, above line 1, insert --We claim:--